

Message Text

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG FAO

SUBJ: FAO PROGRAM COMMITTEE: FOOD CORPS

REF: MORGENTHAU PAPER OF 9/1/78

1. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE EVOLUTION OF FOOD CORPS, GENERAL LINE OF MORGENTHAU SEPT 1 PAPER LOOKS FINE TO U.S. REP. HOWEVER, IF SAHELIAN AND TANZANIAN DESIGNS HAVE NOT EMERGED BY TIME OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE, IT WILL BE TOO EARLY TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR A LIAISON OFFICE, EXCEPT INHYPO-THETICAL MANNER. IF, BY TIME OF FAO COUNCIL, SAHELIANS AND TANZANIANS HAVE SOMETHING TO DESCRIBE, IDEA MIGHT BE FLOATED THEN. IF THESE EARLY FOOD CORPS NEED SOME FAO INPUTS OR CONSULTANTS, WE SUSPECT DG WOULD BE DISPOSED TO PROVIDE THIS THROUGH SMALL BILATERAL TCP PROJECTS INITIALLY AND TO MOVE TOWARD MULTILATERAL LIAISON UNIT WHEN MORE MEMBERS DEVELOP FOOD CORPS. CORE MEMBERS OF SUCH A UNIT MIGHT BE SOUGHT AMONG CONSULTANTS FAO WOULD HAVE USED ON THESE INITIAL PROJECTS.

2. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE WOULD NOTE, IN PROJECTED
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JANUARY-JUNE, 1979 PERIOD, DESIRABILITY OF SEEING WHETHER OTHER STATES PICK UP ON SAHELIAN AND TANZANIAN EXAMPLE AND, IF SO, GENERATING PROPOSAL AT SPRING 1979 PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR LIAISON OFFICE AT JUNE, 1979 FAO COUNCIL. IN THIS CONNECTION, INFORMED CONTACT GROUP AT 33RD UNGA MIGHT HAVE A ROLE IN POPULARIZING AND FURTHER EXPLAINING CONCEPT WITH SRI LANKAN AND MEXICAN HELP

RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON ANY, POSSIBLY PREMATURE, UNGA MOVE WHICH MIGHT PUT FAO/DG OFF. SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON HAVING RIGHT PEOPLE FROM RIGHT COUNTRIES PRESENT, WHICH CONCEIVABLY MIGHT BE EASIER TO ARRANGE AT NOVEMBER FAO COUNCIL THAN AT UNGA.

3. U.S. REP CAN CONFIRM RISING DG INTEREST IN FOOD CORPS IF INITIATIVE COMES TO HIM FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (IN FACT, BRIEFING BY SAHELANS OF FRANCOPHONE MEMBER OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE, CAMARA OF GUINEA, AND BY TANZANIAN OR KENYAN MEMBER, J.L. LIJODI, COULD BE TIMELY). HOWEVER, INSPIRATIONAL APPROACH TO SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF YOUTH BELOW EXPERT LEVEL, IS NOT PART OF DG'S EXPERIENCE OR FAO'S EITHER. DG IS BEGINNING TO PERCEIVE ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND RELEVANCE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN POOREST COUNTRIES, AND WILL DO SO INCREASINGLY IF CONCEPT ELABORATED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT WCARRD. BUT TYPE OF ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP IT (AS DISTINCT FROM TECHNICAL ADVICE) WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE RECRUITED OUTSIDE OF FAO.
GARDNER

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